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To: <coombsn@scsenate.org>
Date: 11/17/2008 3:45 PM
Subject: Response to Request for comment on energy policy

To all concerned,

Answers to questions;

1, With aspect to the climate change issue. I anticipate that Congress, unless focused on the actual problems, will focus on the symptoms and what they feel will be the most popular view of their constituents. If this course is followed, we will advance down the same energy policy path we have for the last 30 years and continue to deepen the hole we have created. Those who want to effect a positive change have to take the time to understand the facts about all energy sources and rid themselves of any personal feelings or preconceived notions about them. Unless one has a true understanding of the cost to benefit, longevity, practicality and risk issues etc, it will be impossible to make logical and timely decisions that are sustainable.

2, South Carolina has some very knowledgeable people in the Energy Office who understand a great deal about how to address our current problems, but I believe in many cases their expertise is gone unnoticed. The one great thing they have promoted which seems to allude the masses is conservation. They have been as steadfast in their encouragement of that issue as anyone could be who truly understands the big picture, "you don't have to produce it, if you don't have to use it".

3, How do we use electricity in SC ? Poorly! Because our need for air conditioning here is as great as it is, along with the fact that we have enjoyed some of the lowest electric rate across the nation for so many years, we have not been prudent in balancing our aesthetic desires with sustainability. There are several ways to address the bulk of this problem through the modification of building codes. For the most part, we're still doing just about everything the way we did it 30 years ago. Our greatest obstacles to overcome in becoming more energy efficient is, the notion that it is considerably more expensive and won't be attractive. You either pay the full price for something now or you don't, and you or someone else winds up paying for the rest of it later.

4, The renewable resource in this state is biomass. Landfill gas, waste from wood and pulp production, the enormous production of residential and commercial garbage and waste heat from certain industrial process that is currently to expensive to capture. They are not, at least yet, photovoltaic, wind- driven or tidal energy.

5, Our non-native renewable resource is nuclear power and for the most part, siting for and transmission of that power is already here but needs attention. One comment I must make here is that, if the French can bring one on line in five years after breaking ground, why can't we ?

6, I would need considerably more time and space to address these questions adequately. As I mentioned above in question 3 we've been spoiled for too long and that won't change overnight. There needs to be an across the board sweeping change to the building codes that currently, (1) allow inefficient placement of mechanical HVAC systems within a structure, i.e. in unconditioned attics or crawl spaces, (2) does not consider it necessary to insulate the entire envelope of the structure, (3) does not address moisture migration and air sealing of the structure plainly and simply, (4) the amount and type of glass and it's placement. Energy efficiency measures are a indeed a cost effective measure towards slowing the need for new generation. However, even with the most extreme effort, conservation along with renewables cannot possibly address the requirement for new generation given the intense residential and commercial growth we have in SC.

7. The global energy market has just begun to show us that what we have been up to for so long, is no longer sustainable. From the way we plan our cities to the transportation and structures we build to live and work in, our lack of concern for "sustainability" has put us in an extremely vulnerable position. Not only has our economy but our national security has been severely compromised by our lack of concern for these issues. It is time for a paradigm shift regarding these issues which needs to be prompted by the very people elected to lead us. We don't have to reinvent the wheel to figure this out, most of the answers are already here if your willing to listen to the people who understand the problems. The truth usually isn't popular to talk about or deal with but there is no

denying it when it's finality is staring you in the face.

8. The current economic conditions have considerably slowed growth and effected all energy use. Our prior projections for energy use will resume, hopefully sooner than later but the fact remains, with escalating world fuel prices and the burgeoning demand for electricity we have our work cut out for us right now. This current downturn in the economy is temporary and actually has bought with it, a window of opportunity. Lets take advantage of this time we all want to see disappear and devote our efforts to resolving these issues.

TWT

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A brief background.

The emphasis of my undergrad work in college was to pursue a career in physics. Never got to grad school but have done a fare amount of reading. My goal was to be apart of developing "the new clean energy", nuclear fusion. For the past 27 years I have worked for an electric Cooperative in the low country as an energy auditor and consultant. I've conducted roughly 4500 energy audits of both residential and commercial properties. Over the years I have seen the not so good, the bad and the ugly of mediocre attempts to construct efficient buildings and air conditioning systems. If you find my experience and what I've said of use, I would be happy to address any of these subjects in much grater detail.